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A NEW SPECIES OF *TARENNA* GAERTN. (RUBIACEAE) FROM SHIMOGA DISTRICT, MYSORE STATE

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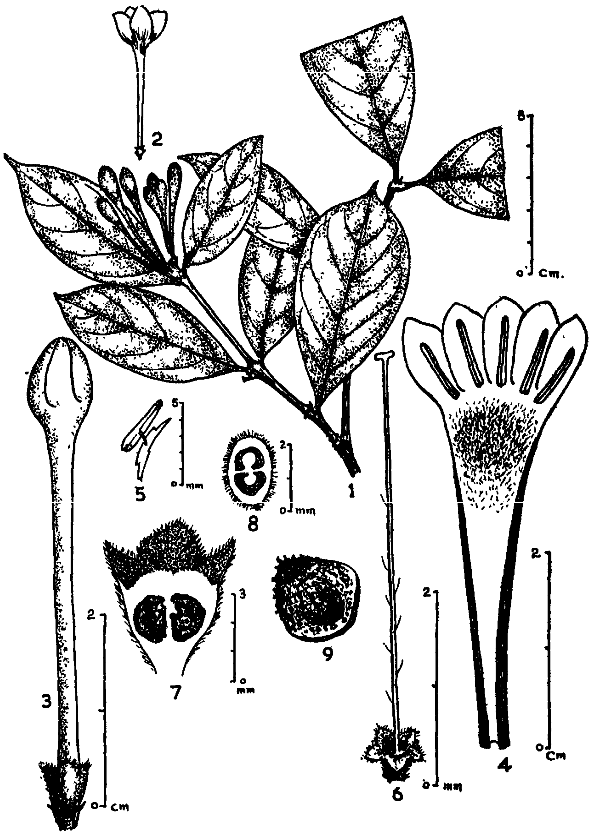
Tarenna agumbensis Sundararaghavan sp. nov.

Accedit ad *T nilagiricam* (Bedd.) Bremek., a qua tamen differt foliis siccis nigris, alabastris clavatis, globosis et aliquantum ad apicem tumescentibus, corollae tubo fere quadruplo lobis longiore, lobis late ovatis vel ovato-ellipticis, sursum patentibus et stigma et stylum includentibus. Inter species indicas generis Tarennae haec species unica est et patenter distincta aspectu generali florum, magnitudine et forma corollae, proportione relativa tubum inter et limbum corollae, absentia corollae loborum linearium vel ligulatorum, lobis dorsum deflexis, et stylo vix faucem corollae excedente et incluso in corollae limbo.

Frutex 1.5-3 m altus, dense ramosus, apicibus surculorum juvenilium minute pubescentibus et cito glabrescentibus, ramis suberosis. Folia 5.5-13 × 3-6.5 cm, 1.8-2.5 fere duplo longiora quam lata, chartacea, nitentia, glabra adaxialiter, minute pubescentia abaxialiter cum juvenilia, glabra ad maturitatem; lamina late elliptica, obovato-elliptica vel elliptico-oblonga, nigra cum sicca, marginibus integris, apice abrupte cordato-acuminato, basi acuta vel acute attenuata; nervi dorsales emphatici, ventrales obscuri, secundarii 5-8-jugi, pubescentes abaxialiter; petiolis 1.5-4 mm longis, stipulis interpetiolaribus, triangulari-ovatis. Inflorescentia cymosa terminalis compacta subsessilis vel breviter pedunculata, brunneo-pubescens, 8-12-flora. Alabastra breviter pedicellata, clavata, globosa et aliquantum abrupte prope apicem tumescentia; flores albi, spectaculares, fragrantes, infundibuliformes; bracteae 1-1.5 mm longae, late triangulares; bracteolae binae, prope basin pedicelli, ± 0.5 mm longae, anguste triangulares, brunneo-pubescentes. Calyx ± 6.5 × 3 mm turbinatus pubescens breviter 5-dentatus, dentibus triangularibus et ad margines ciliatis. Corolla alba, glabra, infundibuliformis, fauce pilosa; tubo anguste cylindrico, ± 3.2-3.6 cm longo, ± 2 mm lato, fere quadruplo lobis longiore; laciniae 5, imbricatae, late ovatae vel ovato-ellipticae, 8-10 × 5-7 mm, sursum projectae cum plene apertae. Stamina 5 corollae fauci inserta, filamentis minutis, antheris linearibus ± 4 mm longis, dorsifixis exsertis. Ovarium inferius, biloculare, ovulo unico in singulis loculis, saepe uno ovulo abortivo; stylus gracilis linearis 3.8-4 cm longus fere glaber pilis nonnullis dispersis per dimidium inferius, subuniformiter crassus, vix praeter corollae faucem exsertus et lobis inclusus; lobi stigmatici graciles, nec crassi nec fusiformes. Fructus ignoti.



Tarenna agumbensis Sundararaghavan sp. nov.

Text figs. 1-9: 1. Flowering twig. 2. Fully open flower. 3. Enlarged & mature bud. 4. Corolla split open showing tube and lobes. 5. Stamen. 6. Style & stigma. 7. L. S. of ovary. 8. C. S. of ovary. 9. Ovule embedded amidst a cluster of paraphyses like appendages.

Holotypus *Sundararaghavan* 62732 A lectus mensis maii die 19, anni 1960 ad Barakhana, prope Agumbe, in ditione Mysore, et positus in CAL;

isotpyi *Sundararaghavan* 62732 B-D. et paratypi (*Sundararaghavan* 80583 A, B.) positi in herbario Poonensi. Paratypi *Sundararaghavan* 80583 C-E varie distribuendi.

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Allied to *Tarenna nilagirica* (Bedd.) Bremek. but differs in the leaves drying black, the club shaped bud globose and somewhat abruptly swollen near the apex, the corolla tube nearly 4 times as long as the corolla lobes, and the broad ovate to ovate-elliptic corolla lobes opening upwards fully concealing the style and the stigma. In the general appearance of the flower whether in bud or fully open, in the size and shape of corolla, in the relative ratio of the corolla lobe to the tube, in the absence of linear or strap shaped corolla lobes deflexed downwards and in the style hardly exerted beyond the corolla throat but at any rate included within the corolla limb, this species is unique amongst all the known Indian species of *Tarenna* and at once recognizable as a distinct species.

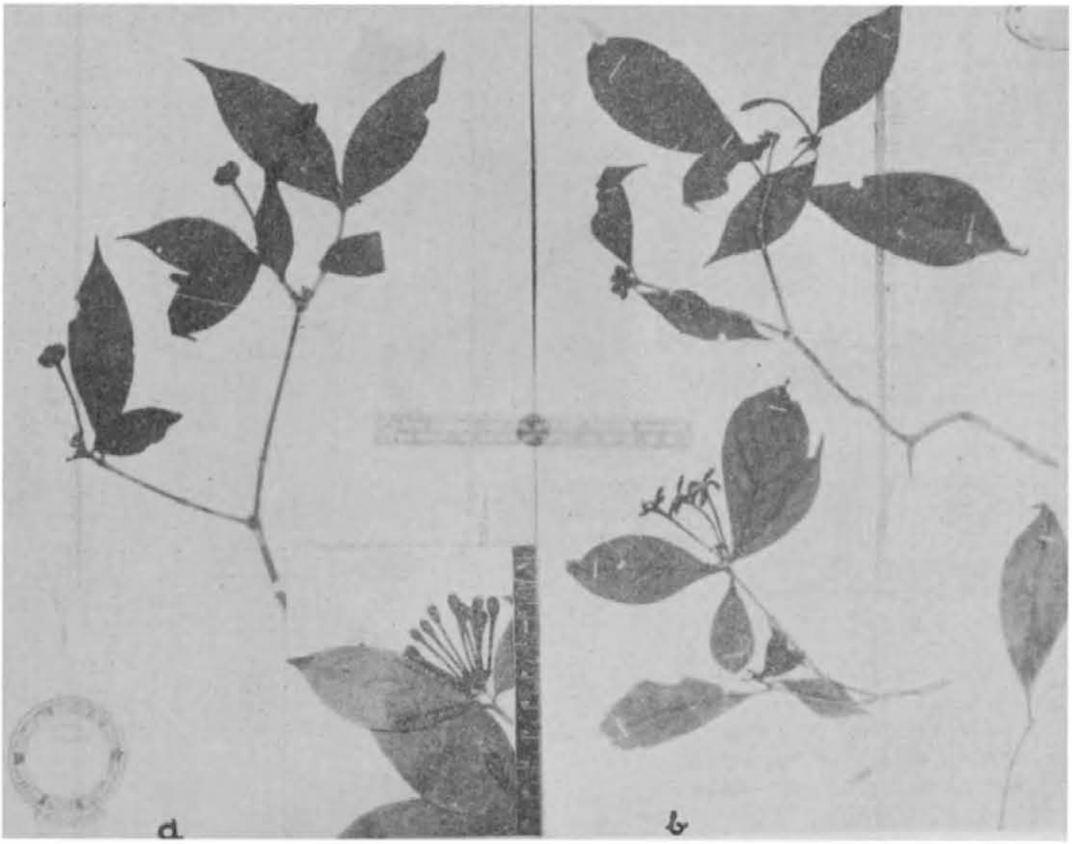

Plate I : A comparison of the flowering twigs of *T. agumbensis* and *T. nilagirica*.
a. *Tarenna agumbensis* with buds and fully open flowers. b. *Tarenna nilagirica* (Bedd.) Bremek.

Woody shrub nearly 1.5-3 m tall, profusely branched, apices of young shoots minutely puberulous but soon glabrescent, branches corky. *Leaves* 5.5-13 × 3-6.5 cm, nearly 1.8-2.5 times as long as broad, chartaceous, lustrous, glabrous adaxially, minutely puberulous abaxially when young but glabrous at maturity; lamina broadly elliptic, obovate-elliptic or elliptic-oblong, drying black, margins entire, apex abruptly caudate acuminate, base acute or sharply attenuate; venation dorsally emphatic, ventrally obscure, secondary nerves 5-8 pairs, puberulous abaxially especially along the veins; petiole short, 1.5-4 mm long; stipules interpetiolar, triangular-ovate. *Inflorescence* terminal compact cymes, subsessile to shortly peduncled, brown pubescent, 8-12 flowered. *Flower buds* shortly pedicelled, clavate, globose and somewhat abruptly swollen near the apex; mature flowers, white, showy, fragrant, infundibuliform; bracts 1-1.5 mm long, broadly triangular; bracteoles 2, near base of pedicel, ± 0.5 mm long, narrow triangular, brown pubescent. *Calyx* ± 6.5 × 3 mm, turbinate, pubescent, shortly 5-toothed, the teeth triangular and ciliate along the margins. *Corolla* white, glabrous, limb infundibuliform, throat hairy, corolla-tube narrow cylindric, 3.2-3.6 cm long, ± 2 mm in width nearly 3.8-4 times as long as the corolla lobes; lobes 5, imbricate, broadly ovate to ovate-elliptic, 8-10 × 5-7 mm, the lobes projecting upwards when fully open. Stamens 5, inserted on the mouth of corolla; filaments minute; anthers linear ± 4 mm long, dorsifixed, exerted. *Ovary* inferior, 2 celled with one ovule in each locule obliquely pendant from the fleshy placenta, embedded amidst a cluster of hairy appendages of placental origin, often one of the ovules aborting; style slender, linear, 3.8-4 cm long, almost glabrous except for a few scattered hairs in the lower half, more or less of uniform thickness throughout, barely exerted beyond the corolla throat and included within the corolla-lobes; stigmatic lobes slender, neither thickened nor fusiform. *Fruits* not seen. (Text figs. 1-9; Plate I, a).

Holotype *Sundararaghavan* 62732 A, collected on 19th May, 1960, from Barakana, Agumbe, Shimoga District, Mysore State is deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, Calcutta (CAL); isotypes *Sundararaghavan* 62732 B-D and paratypes *Sundararaghavan* 80583 A-B (Emkalkare, Agumbe, 14th May, 1962) are housed in the Herbarium of the Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Poona (Maharashtra). The paratypes *Sundararaghavan* 80583 C-E are being distributed to the different herbaria as indicated below:

Sundararaghavan 80583 C (K), *Sundararaghavan* 80583 D (L) and *Sundararaghavan* 80583 E (GH).

Even in the general appearance and floral characters this species is markedly distinct from all the known species of *Tarenna*, though at a first glance it looks more like a *Pavetta*. The specimens were subsequently referred to the authorities at Kew for confirming its identity and especially for critically studying it in relation to the other non-Indian species of *Tarenna*. It was confirmed at Kew to be quite a new species even in the absence of fruiting samples. This elegant species with its white, showy, fragrant, large flowers is worth introducing as a garden plant. Unfortunately many of the shrubs from the type locality were unwittingly destroyed by the forest department during their clearing operations.

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